

Testimony to CT Public Safety Committee:

March 14, 2016

Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee, *TESTIMONY COMMITTEE*

My name is Rose Gori and I am a resident of Milford, CT.

I am writing this testimony to express my OPPOSITION to Bills; HB 5054

I OPPOSE BILL HB5054; AN ACT PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The reason I oppose this bill is because it violates the FIFTH and FOURTEENTH Amendments of the Constitution. "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law". In this bill, there is a clear violation of a person's right to 'due process of law'; by having his / her property being confiscated before being heard by a judge regarding 'accusations' made against him / her. While we all can agree, we want to keep the innocent safe and the criminals incarcerated; our laws guarantee a person the right to Due Process before being deprived of Liberty and Property. Statistics show that up to half of the accusations (requests for restraining orders) have no merit for a restraining order. Every citizen has the right to due process of law as stated (above) in our Constitution. I request that you Not pass this Un-Constitutional bill.

This bill 'removes' the specific language of; "after an opportunity to be heard has been provided to such person". How is it that some in our Legislature would willingly remove 'the Constitutional guarantee' of Due Process Of Law in the name of safety. Please work together to protect people who are victims (and potential) victims of domestic abuse, without Violating a person's Constitutional rights. One suggestion would be to provide safe (homes) places for those making accusations, until (and after) a proper hearing takes place.

This bill if passed, places all the burden and hardships on the law abiding (firearm owner) citizen against a (possible) false accusation by another person. By taking away a Citizen's Constitutional Right to defend his or her innocence before a judge, you are making him or her guilty – without having the right to 'be heard' 1st. The cost of time and money (fees) that will be put upon the (falsely) accused will be quite significant (storage and transfer fees).

Also, your wording of; 'how a person retrieves their firearms and ammunition after a released TRO' is very vague, and (Again) burdensome (and possibly lengthy); because they will have to go before the examination board to do so, and the wait time on that is; years.

This is why the 'language' that you want to remove, is in the original law: It is there to protect a 'citizen's constitutional rights'; of which You were Sworn to Support (not violate).

Thank you for reading my testimony. I understand your responsibility to enact right and just laws. I ask you to oppose these Bills because of their overreaching violations of Constitutional rights to strive for some form of (safety) protection.

Sincerely,

Rose Gori

